

October 8, 2003

To: Distribution List

The Department of Water Resources has issued the enclosed *Guidebook for Implementation of Senate Bill 610 and Senate Bill 221 of 2001* to assist water suppliers, cities, and counties in integrating water and land use planning. The bills were effective January 1, 2002.

Senate Bill 610 (Costa) (Chapter 643, Statutes of 2001) and Senate Bill 221 (Kuehl) (Chapter 642, Statutes of 2001) require that approvals of large new developments be linked to assurances that there is an adequate water supply.

A year ago, DWR issued a Draft Guidebook for SB 610 and SB 221. Cities, counties and water agencies have been using it to achieve compliance with the laws. It provides step by step suggestions for developing detailed information about water supplies and completing the SB 610 water supply assessment and the SB 221 verification of sufficient water supply. Minor revisions and a few clarifications have been added to the Guidebook being issued today.

DWR has no regulatory, permitting or any other approval authority concerning water assessments or verifications of sufficient water supply. The Guidebook is an assistance tool only and has no effect on existing State law. The information provided in the Guidebook is not all-inclusive and is not required to be used. In case of any conflict between suggestions contained in the Guidebook and any applicable laws, those laws shall have precedence.

The Guidebook was developed with input from counties, cities, water agencies, the Bureau of Reclamation, State Department of Real Estate, CALAFCO, Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission, Water Education Foundation, Planning and Conservation League, California Urban Water Conservation Council, the development community, the bills' sponsor, East Bay Municipal Utility District, and the State Attorney General's Office.

The Guidebook, as well as a list of frequently asked questions with responses, is available on the DWR Office of Water Use Efficiency web site at:
<http://www.owue.water.ca.gov>.

If you have any questions or require additional information, you may contact Dave Todd, of DWR's Office of Water Use Efficiency at: (916) 651-7027 or by e-mail at dtodd@water.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Spear
Interim Director

Enclosure